

CLAIMS:

1. Vehicle headlamp with a metal halide lamp comprising:
 - a discharge vessel surrounded with clearance by an outer envelope and having a ceramic wall which encloses a discharge space containing Xenon (Xe) and an ionizable filling;
- 5 - a first and a second current conductor entering the discharge vessel and each supporting an electrode in the discharge vessel, wherein the first and the second current conductor each extend from a ceramic sealing compound sealing the discharge vessel around the current conductors in a gastight manner to the exterior of the discharge vessel, and wherein the discharge vessel has extended end parts in each of which a respective current conductor is enclosed, which end parts each have a free end where the discharge vessel is sealed by the ceramic sealing compound,
characterized in that said vehicle headlamp has a light-reflective coating surrounding at least a portion of at least one of the end parts.
- 15 2. Vehicle headlamp according to claim 1, wherein the light-reflective coating is provided on the outer side of the ceramic wall of at least a portion of the end parts.
3. Vehicle headlamp according to claim 2, wherein the light-reflective coating is band-shaped and surrounds a portion of both end parts adjacent a central part of the discharge vessel, as well as both ends of said central part.
- 20 4. Vehicle headlamp according to claim 1, wherein the light-reflective coating is provided on the inner side of the outer envelope.
- 25 5. Vehicle headlamp according to claim 3 or 4, wherein a line through a tip of an electrode and an edge of the light-reflective coating directed towards the discharge vessel encloses an angle varying between 5° and 30° with a plane perpendicular to said electrode.

6. Vehicle headlamp according to claim 1, wherein the light-reflective coating is provided on the outer side of the outer envelope.

7. Vehicle headlamp according to any of the preceding claims 1 through 6,
5 wherein the discharge vessel has a circumferential clearance inside the outer envelope of at most 5 mm.

8. Vehicle headlamp according to any of the preceding claims 1 through 7,
wherein tips of the electrodes have a mutual interspacing EA so as to define a discharge path
10 between them, wherein the discharge vessel has an internal diameter Di at least over the distance EA, and wherein Di is smaller than or equal to 2.0 mm, particularly smaller than or equal to 1.5 mm, particularly smaller than or equal to 1.0 mm.

9. Vehicle headlamp according to any of the preceding claims 1 through 8,
15 wherein the end parts have an average internal diameter D_i' smaller than or equal to 0.6 mm.

10. Vehicle headlamp according to any of the preceding claims 1 through 9,
wherein the light-reflective coating comprises a material chosen from the group of Cu, Ag,
Rh, Au, W, Mo, Pt, Nb, Ta, Ni, Re, Cr, Fe, Ti, U, Al, and Ir.